

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

NYK BULK & PROJECT CARRIERS LTD.,
Individually and on behalf of M/V OCEAN
FRIEND (IMO No. 9401829)

Plaintiff,

- against -

O.W. BUNKER USA INC., NUSTAR ENERGY
SERVICES, INC., HARLEY MARINE GULF,
INC., ING BANK N.V.

Defendants.

Case No. 14-cv-10090 (VEC)

**ANSWER OF ING BANK N.V. TO
THE COMPLAINT FOR
INTERPLEADER**

Interpleader Defendant ING Bank N.V. (“ING Bank” or the “Bank”) by its attorneys,
Seward & Kissel LLP, as and for its Answer to Plaintiff NYK Bulk & Project Carriers Ltd.’s
(“Plaintiff” or “NBP”) Complaint for Interpleader (the “Complaint”) states as follows:

ING Bank denies each allegation in the Complaint except as hereinafter specifically
admitted. With regard to the specific allegations of the numbered paragraphs of the Complaint,
ING Bank responds as follows:

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the
allegations in paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the
allegations in paragraph 2 of the Complaint.
3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the
allegations in paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 4 of the Complaint.

5. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

7. Admits the allegations in paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8. The allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

9. The allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10. The allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

11. The allegations contained in paragraph 11 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. The allegations contained in paragraph 12 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. The allegations contained in paragraph 13 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

16. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

22. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 22 of the Complaint and footnote 1 contained therein.

23. ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 23 of the Complaint, except states that ING Bank acts as the Security Agent (the “Security Agent”) under that certain USD 700,000,000 Multicurrency Revolving Borrowing Base Facilities Agreement, dated as of December 19, 2013 (the “Credit Agreement”), and the related English Omnibus Security Agreement, dated as of December 19, 2013 (the “Security Agreement”, and together with the Credit Agreement and all other agreements related or ancillary thereto, the “Finance Documents”), each among ING Bank, and, inter alia, Debtor defendant O.W. Bunker USA Inc. and O.W. Bunker North America Inc. (together with O.W. Bunker Holding North America Inc., the “OW Bunker Debtors”) and O.W. Bunker Trading A/S and certain of their affiliates.

24. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 24 of the Complaint, except states that ING Bank is Security Agent to O.W. Bunker USA Inc. and certain affiliates under the Finance Documents.

25. The allegations contained in paragraph 25 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which required no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

26. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 26 of the Complaint, except states that Exhibit 6 to the

Complaint is a letter sent by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and ING Bank dated November 13, 2014.

27. The allegations contained in paragraph 27 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

28. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

29. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

30. The allegations contained in paragraph 30 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

31. The allegations contained in paragraph 31 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

32. The allegations contained in paragraph 32 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

33. The allegations contained in paragraph 33 of the Complaint state conclusions of law which require no response. To the extent a response is required, ING Bank denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 33 of the Complaint.

To the extent a response to the allegations contained in the “prayer” paragraph, including all subparts, of the Complaint is required, those allegations are denied.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

34. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

35. Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that there is a legitimate threat posed of multiple liability for the same obligation against it in this case, under statutory interpleader, rule interpleader or otherwise.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

36. Plaintiff is not entitled to be discharged from its obligation to pay on its contract invoice.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

37. Plaintiff is not a disinterested or nominal party, and interpleader accordingly is improper under these circumstances.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

38. Plaintiff’s interpleader action is or may be in violation of the automatic stay, 11 U.S.C. § 362 *et seq.*

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

39. Recovery of attorney’s fees is not permissible in this case because such recovery

is not permitted by agreement between the parties, by statute or by court rule.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

34. Plaintiff has failed to join an indispensable party, namely NYK Trading Corporation.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

35. ING Bank has not knowingly or voluntarily waived any applicable affirmative defenses and reserves the right to assert, and rely upon, such additional affirmative defenses as may become available or apparent as discovery commences and progresses in this action.

COUNTERCLAIM AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

1. Interpleader Defendant ING Bank, by way of counter-claim against Interpleader Plaintiff NBP individually and on behalf of the vessel M/V OCEAN FRIEND, and without waiving any rights, priorities, claims, defenses, or affirmative defenses, including those mentioned above, alleges as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. OW Bunker & Trading A/S was an international provider of marine fuels that commenced in-court restructuring proceedings at the probate court in Alborg, Denmark in November 2014.

3. Certain other O.W. Bunker group entities have subsequently commenced insolvency proceedings in jurisdictions around the globe.

4. ING Bank is the Security Agent under the Finance Documents.

5. After the bankruptcy of the OW Bunker Debtors, NBP and other parties brought similar interpleader actions in the Southern District of New York, as well as other jurisdictions.

6. This filing was made in contravention of the bankruptcy court's automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362 *et seq.*

FIRST COUNTERCLAIM

(against Interpleader Plaintiff NYK Bulk & Project Carriers Ltd. for the Disputed Funds)

7. ING Bank repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 6, as well as its averments with respect to the allegations of the Complaint above, as if fully set forth herein.

8. Debtor defendant O.W. Bunker USA Inc. has, pursuant to the Finance Documents, assigned to ING Bank all of its rights in respect of all amounts owing by NBP under its supply contracts, including unpaid invoices, totaling \$375,604.22, plus interest on late payments pursuant to O.W. Bunker's standard terms and conditions (the "Disputed Funds").

9. NBP admits that it has control of and has not paid the Disputed Funds to any O.W. Bunker entity.

10. NBP is obligated to pay the Disputed Funds to the applicable O.W. Bunker entity; and the relative rights to those funds may then be determined in these or related proceedings.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

11. ING Bank repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 10, as well as its averments with respect to the allegations of the Complaint above, as if fully set forth herein.

12. On November 13, 2014, the OW Bunker Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in this Court.

13. ING Bank reserves the right to assert additional counter- or cross-claims or defenses, as necessary, against the parties to this action, including but not limited to claims or defenses it has regarding its status as senior secured creditor in respect of customer supply receivables owing to O.W. Bunker USA Inc. Such claims and defenses are neither necessary nor required to be asserted herein, *inter alia*, as they are the subject of a pending adversary proceeding between ING Bank and OW Bunker Debtors in Connecticut.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, ING Bank requests that the Court enter an order finding:

- (1) Plaintiff has failed to state an appropriate claim for interpleader on the particular facts and circumstances asserted herein,
- (2) Plaintiff is not entitled to be discharged from liability upon its obligation to pay all amounts payable under the invoices referenced in the Complaint without setoff or reduction,
- (3) that this proceeding be dismissed with prejudice,
- (4) that ING Bank be awarded judgment on its counterclaim, its attorneys' fees, interest, costs and expenses incurred in this action, and
- (5) for such other and further relief as is just and proper.

New York, New York
March 9, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

SEWARD & KISSEL LLP

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Attorneys for ING Bank N.V., as Security Agent